



MLK Jr. Day Celebration to Present 'Light in the Midst of Darkness' Program to Feature Performances, Community Service

Diverse performances, awards and a keynote speech focused on the theme of "Light in the Midst of Darkness" will highlight Rockville's 48th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20 at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

Barbara Harrison, longtime reporter at Washington's NBC4, will present the keynote speech.

There will be volunteer community service activities beginning at 11 a.m., along with information booths and free refreshments. The program, which is free and open to all ages, will begin at noon in the auditorium.

The ceremony will include the presentation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award to a student at a Rockville high school who has worked to fulfill King's dream, and the F. Michael Taff Award to an individual, organization or business that has helped to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Before the program, volunteers will create blankets to be distributed to children in Montgomery County through the county chapter of Project Linus. The nonprofit's mission is to "provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in



Keynote Speaker: Barbara Harrison, Washington's NBC4 reporter.

need, through the gift of new, handmade blankets lovingly created by volunteer 'blanketeers.'" Another project will involve assembling survival kits for homeless veterans. Sign up to volunteer with Project Linus at www.rockvillemd.gov/2301/Project-Linus.

Volunteers are also needed to help with setup and cleanup, or as tech and stage crew, ushers and more. Student Service Learning credit is available. To learn more about the celebration, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk or contact Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316 or jkelly@rockvillemd.gov. For information about accessibility, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108. ✚

Mayor and Council Discuss Strategy for Safer Streets

Rockville is honing its pedestrian safety efforts with an emphasis on engineering to create safer streets, enforcement of traffic laws, and education to raise awareness of safe practices while driving, walking or biking.

City staff briefed the Mayor and Council on these efforts during their meeting on Dec. 16. The update detailed safety improvements that the city completed and enforcement that city police conducted in recent years, as well as educational outreach, and plans for future efforts and projects.

"Staff is currently focusing on improving pedestrian safety throughout the city, but especially at Town Center and Twinbrook in response to vehicle/pedestrian collisions on Beall Avenue in the spring and on McAuliffe Drive in the fall of 2019," the report said. "The city responded by installing safety elements at both locations with the consultation and coordination of [the Rockville Pedestrian Advisory Committee] and community groups."

In Town Center, those safety elements included installing pedestrian-activated flashing devices along Beall Avenue, improving lighting and sightlines, reducing the speed limit from 30 to 25 mph, and increasing police patrols for speed and traffic enforcement.

In Twinbrook, improvements included new and refreshed crosswalks along McAuliffe Drive; expanded "No Parking" zones to increase sightlines; nighttime inspections of streetlights to identify outages; and

city staff studies of traffic volume and speed, and of pedestrian movement.

The Mayor and Council asked about specific engineering and enforcement measures; how the city can work with local, county and state partners; and how to measure success in improving pedestrian safety.

The briefing came just six days after the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee and the city's Traffic and Transportation Commission held a joint meeting in which they agreed to work together to advocate for the city's Vision Zero plan, a draft of which is expected to go before the Mayor and Council this spring. The city's Vision Zero goal is to eliminate pedestrian-related deaths and serious injuries by 2030 through improved road design, traffic law enforcement and education.

Find the staff report and video of the pedestrian safety update with the Dec. 16 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Have a concern about a non-emergency pedestrian safety issue in the city? Visit www.rockvillemd.gov, scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Report a Concern," or call City Hall at 240-314-5000, or the police hotline at 240-314-8900. For emergencies, call 911.

For more information on the city's ongoing pedestrian safety efforts, contact Alyssa Roff, the city's pedestrian and bicycle coordinator, at aroff@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8527. ✚

Combating Opioids is Front and Center in 2020

After a successful year of going purple, Rockville's efforts to bring sustained, communitywide attention to the epidemic of opioid addiction and overdoses will continue throughout 2019, starting with two trainings on how to identify an overdose and use the rescue drug Narcan to reverse its effects.

The sessions will be conducted by the city, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Montgomery County Collaboration Council.

The first, from 7-8:30 p.m. will be held Monday, Jan 13 at the Twinbrook Community and Recreation Center Annex

ROCKVILLE GOES PURPLE

Building, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

The second, on Wednesday, April 15 will be held from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave. Participants will receive a free Narcan kit.

To register, call 240-777-1836 or email OverdoseResponseProgram@montgomerycountymd.gov.

When administered, Narcan, also known as Naloxone, reverses the effects of an opioid over-

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Rockville Facilities to Close for New Year's and MLK Day

Some Recycling and Trash Collections will Change

City Hall and all city facilities will be closed for New Year's Day on Wednesday, Jan. 1. City Hall and some facilities will also be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 20.

During the week of New Year's Day, recycling and trash will be collected as usual on Monday and Tuesday. All other collections will occur one day later than usual. Recycling and trash will be collected one day later than usual the week of Jan. 20. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.

Other city facilities will operate on the following schedule:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center is closed Mondays, including Jan. 20, and will be closed Jan. 1. The center will open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31 and regular hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) Thursday, Jan. 2.
- Glenview Mansion is closed Mondays and will be closed Jan. 1.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald *continued on pg. 5...*

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Matching Grant Program Seeks Projects to Improve Rockville Communities

The city's matching grant program seeks to help neighbors work together to accomplish common goals supporting the health, vitality and inclusivity of the place they call home.

Applications for the Community Empowerment Grants program are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/communityempowerment and are due Thursday, Jan. 30.

Grant applications may address community building, community improvement projects and livability initiatives. Descriptions of each can be found at the webpage listed above.

Neighborhood, civic or homeowners associations; community groups; organized groups of neighbors; and student groups are eligible to apply. Neighbors and organizations who are willing to match funding through cash, in-kind donations and volunteer hours are eligible for these competitive grants.

Grants typically range from \$500-\$1,000 each and must benefit a clearly identified area within the city limits. Grant funds will be available after Friday, Feb. 28.

Make Volunteering One of Your New Year's Resolutions

Want to do some good deeds in the new year? Rockville has dozens of opportunities available for teens and adults, from snow shoveling to mentoring to stream cleanups.

Whether your passion is helping others or the environment, you can use your free time to lend a hand. Here are some examples:

Adopt a stream: Individuals, families, businesses and community groups can adopt a stream. Formally adopt a stream or participate in a one-time cleanup. Even a small group of volunteers can remove large amounts of debris from streams in a short period of time.

Join a board or commission: Consider joining a board, commission or committee to help provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council on issues that matter.

Youth mentor: Offers support and encouragement to a child, helping them reach their full potential.

Find more Rockville's volunteer opportunities at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Connect with us on Social Media.



Help the Rockville City Police Department Take the Plunge

Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge Friday, Jan. 24

Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis

Pledge in Support of Rockville's Plunge Team • Support Special Olympics Maryland

Visit bit.ly/RCPDPlunge2020

Planning Commission Begins Work on Second Half of Comprehensive Plan Draft Document Will Set Vision, Goals for Planning Areas, Neighborhoods

Rockville's Planning Commission has begun its review of neighborhood-specific sections of the comprehensive plan. This work will guide neighborhood, or planning area, policies and projects throughout the next two decades.

The second component of the City of Rockville's Comprehensive Plan update, "Volume II: Planning Areas," was delivered in December to the city's Planning Commission for its review. Rockville's Comprehensive Plan sets a vision and goals for the future of the city, with practical policies and actions to achieve those goals.

Volume II consists of policy recommendations and recommended city projects for each of the city's 17 geographic planning areas. These recommendations build on citywide policies of the draft "Volume I: Elements" — which the Planning Commission reviewed over the past year — by focusing on issues and opportunities unique to each planning area.

The commission's review began by considering three planning areas in Rockville: Hungerford; Woodley Gardens; and Potomac Woods. The commission also discussed a schedule to review remaining planning areas through the month of January and February.

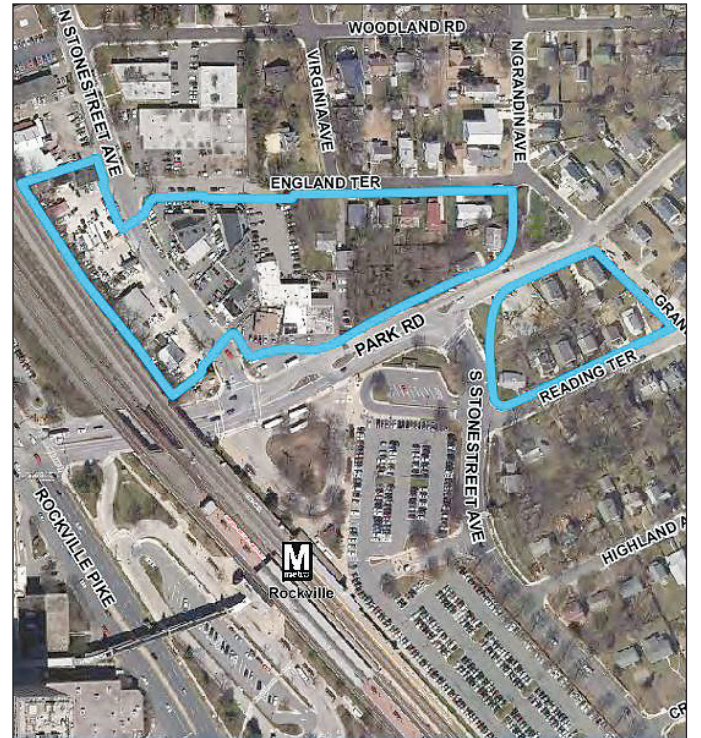
Both draft volumes derive from feedback gathered throughout the Rockville 2040 process, which included numerous listening sessions, citywide forums, open houses and other meetings, as well as analysis and discussion with the Planning Commission.

Once the initial staff draft plan is approved by the Planning Commission for formal release, the city will hold interactive sessions so community members can learn more about its contents. The commission will also open the record for writ-

ten testimony and set public hearing dates for this spring.

When public hearings are complete, the Planning Commission will hold work sessions to revise the plan based on that input. It will then submit both volumes of the revised draft plan (elements and planning areas) to the Mayor and Council for review and action. The Mayor and Council are charged with approving and adopting the plan, once they have developed a final version.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040 or contact comprehensive planning manager Cindy Kebba at ckebba@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8233. +



Planning Commission to Hold Public Hearing on Stonestreet Amendment

The City of Rockville's Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Wednesday, Jan. 8 to hear testimony on the public hearing draft of the Park Road and North/South Stonestreet Avenue Area Comprehensive Master Plan Amendment.

The Planning Commission's meeting begins at 7 p.m. and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on a new vision for the Park Road/Stonestreet Avenue area, a unique location close to the Metro, Town Center and residential neighborhoods.

The amendment promotes a walkable, transit-oriented mix of residential and commercial development, in addition to the commercial and service industrial uses now

in that area. In addition, the amendment offers guidance that would place more intense development, with higher buildings, nearest to Rockville Metro station.

Testimony may be provided in writing to the City of Rockville Planning Commission, c/o Comprehensive Planning, Planning and Development Services, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850; by email to planning.commission@rockvillemd.gov; or in person at City Hall.

For more information, contact Andrea Gilles at agilles@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8273. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/stonestreet-study to view the amendment. +



Meet a Rockville Employee: Amanda Campbell

Amanda Campbell, the city's sustainability coordinator, has been on the job since Nov. 4. We asked her to answer a few questions to introduce her to the community.

What does the city's sustainability coordinator do?

The sustainability co-

ordinator develops and implements municipal and community programs related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, green building, stormwater management, waste reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, equity, green procurement, and sustainable transportation. The work is very multifaceted and definitely collaborative.

Where were you before coming to Rockville?

I researched and led projects related to air quality, climate, energy, transporta-

tion, watershed restoration, tree canopy, resilience and sustainability for Washington metropolitan area municipalities, including Rockville, with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. I was also the regional climate resilience advisor and energy public advisory committee lead.

You will be serving as the liaison to the Environment Commission. How will you help the committee partner with the city to address sustainability?

The Environment Commission recommends policies and programs to the Mayor and Council on city environmental and sustainability initiatives. This year, the committee is working on recognizing community leaders through the Environmental Excellence Awards, promoting environmental stewardship through outreach activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, and exploring new climate and energy initiatives.



GO WITH THE FLOW ... Since 2008 the city has replaced nearly 21 miles of Rockville's 174 miles of water mains and increased the fire flow to 157 hydrants. A 2008 study of the city's water distribution system identified 315 fire hydrants that had a water flow of less than 1,000 gallons per minute, making them less-than-optimal for providing the proper water pressure with which to fight fires. The city's water distribution system has 1,407 hydrants.

Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton: 240-314-8291 • bnewton@rockvillemd.gov

Councilmember Monique Ashton: 240-314-8295 • mashton@rockvillemd.gov

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg: 240-314-8293 • bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov

Councilmember David Myles: 240-314-8294 • dmyles@rockvillemd.gov

Councilmember Mark Pierzchala: 240-314-8292 • mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

Meetings: Monday, Jan. 6, 13 and 27 (work session) at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton will be joined by Councilmember Monique Ashton on Jan. 13.

- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Learn more below and find other ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may

write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **Jan. 7** Asian Pacific American Task Force 7:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 9** Environment Commission 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 8, 22** Planning Commission 7 p.m.*
- **Jan. 9** Board of Appeals 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 16** Senior Citizens Commission 10 a.m. Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation

Drive.

- **Jan. 29** Human Rights Commission 7:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 30** Board of Supervisors of Elections Post-election Forum 7 p.m.

*Televised on Rockville 11.

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Environment Commission (1)
- Historic District Commission (3 reg.; 1 alt.)
- Human Rights Comm. (2)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (2)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission (1)
- Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. (1)
- Retirement Board (1)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (2)
- Traffic and Transportation Commission (1)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.

SPEAK UP

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca
Visit www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd
For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.

Mayor and Council to Hold Budget Hearing, Discuss Priorities

FY 2021 Budget Survey Available

The Mayor and Council continue their work on the Fiscal Year 2021 budget in January with a public hearing and discussion of results from a budget survey.

A public hearing during the Mayor and Council meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 13 at City Hall will give the community an opportunity to provide input on the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program for FY 2021, which begins July 1.

A survey at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget allows community members to choose their

budget priorities and offer suggestions, including ideas for increasing revenue, reducing or modifying services, decreasing costs, and improving operational efficiencies. Staff will compile the online submissions and periodically submit them for the Mayor and Council's review and consideration.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to discuss responses to their FY21 budget priorities survey during their meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27.

The budget process gives com-

| Upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Calendar | |
|---|--|
| JAN. 13 | Public hearing. |
| JAN. 27 | Survey results and priority discussion. |
| FEB. 24 | Presentation of FY 2021 proposed budget. |
| MARCH 2 | Public Hearings and work sessions. |
| MARCH 23 | Public Hearings and work sessions. |
| APRIL 17 | Close of public record. |
| APRIL 20 | Work sessions. |
| MAY 4 | Adoption of the FY 2021 Budget. |
| JULY 1 | Start of FY 2021. |

munity members multiple opportunities to provide in-person input to the Mayor and Council.

Rockville's Fiscal Year 2020 operating budget totals \$138.9 million.

To learn more about hearings and work sessions, find agendas

when they are posted the week before each date at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

For more information and to complete the budget survey, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

FY 2019 Financial Reports Highlight Rockville's Finances

Two annual reports that city staff delivered to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 9 give the public a closer look at Rockville's financial health during the most recently completed fiscal year.

For Fiscal Year 2019, which closed June 30, the city ended "with a healthy overall net position of \$283.1 million," City Manager Rob DiSpirito wrote in the city's Popular Annual Financial Report, a summary document highlighting the city's finances. Net position is a useful indicator of a government's financial health and represents total assets minus total liabilities.

The city maintains a triple-A bond rating. Triple-A is the highest possible rating and saves Rockville taxpayers money by allowing the city to borrow at the lowest possible interest rates.

"The city's general fund reserve exceeded the FY 2019 target by over 7%, and our bond rating was reaffirmed at AAA/Aaa," DiSpirito wrote. "Moving into FY 2020, city staff will continue to address the needs of the Rockville community, and will work to implement the Mayor and Council's top priority initiatives."

The city created the first PAFR in 2007 to explain, in layman's

terms, the information contained in Rockville's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The CAFR is prepared by the Finance Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and audited by certified public accountants. The PAFR is not a replacement for the CAFR, but rather a supplemental document to further assist the public in reviewing the city government's financial operations.

The FY19 PAFR describes:

- The city government and services.
- The city's financial structure, including governmental

funds, such as the general fund and the capital projects fund, and enterprise funds.

- The overall financial health of the city.
- The city's capital investments and debt.
- Property taxes and utility rates, including how to read tax and utility bills.

The PAFR and CAFR are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. To view the presentation to the Mayor and Council, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the television icon next to the Dec. 9 meeting listing.

To learn more, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

Mayor and Council Provide Feedback on Town Center Recommendations

The Mayor and Council in November discussed, supported and provided direction on several recommendations delivered in a report from an expert panel from the Urban Land Institute on ways to strengthen the vitality of Rockville's Town Center.

The report, which was discussed at the Nov. 25 Mayor and Council work session, followed the expert Technical Assistance Panel's intensive two-day study of Town Center in July.

Mayor and Council direction included:

- Support for beginning a new branding campaign.
- Support for designing a direct pathway between Montgomery College and Town Center, in coordination with the college and Montgomery County Public Schools, and reaching out to the college to determine whether the shuttle to Metro stations could include a stop in Town Center.
- Conducting an analysis on potential improvements to roads internal to Town Center.
- Improvements to Promenade Park, a key entry point to Town Center from the Metro
- Near-term repairs to signage, as well as, in the longer-term,

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Election Board Welcomes Ideas

Even though it's only been three months since the 2019 Vote by Mail election, Rockville's Board of Supervisors of Elections is already preparing plans for 2023.

The board will host two forums as first steps in planning for the next election. The first post-election forum will be from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30; the second is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m.-noon.

Both forums will be held in the Mayor and Council chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. While open to the public, invitations have been also extended to participants in the 2019 election, including candidates and campaign treasurers.

For more information, or to RSVP to attend, contact Judy Penny at jpenny@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8288.

Rockville to Pilot Deer-management Hunting Program

RedGate to Close Sept. 6-Nov. 30

Rockville will pilot an archery-only deer cull from about Sept. 6-Nov. 30 at RedGate Park, in addition to continuing the city's ongoing efforts to manage a growing white-tailed deer population, such as data collection, education, the use of repellents and fencing, and participation in a countywide deer-management working group.

As the number of deer have increased, so has the risk of vehicle accidents, damage to landscapes and forest ecosystems, and Lyme disease.

From 2008-2017, according to the Rockville City Police Department, 1,400 deer-vehicle collisions were reported, most often during the height of the deer breeding season in October and November. A survey of six Rockville parks showed an average of 130-160 deer per square mile.

The pilot would allow hunting, with bows or crossbows, within a strictly defined and sign-designated area of the park, by nonprofit deer-management organizations that meet stringent state and local regulations. The park will be closed during that period.

For more information on Rockville's urban wildlife management program, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/urbanwildlife.

Multimedia Scholarship Competition

The city's Human Rights Commission will launch its Multimedia Scholarship Competition on Monday, Jan. 27.

Formerly known as the Multimedia Contest, the revamped annual program is an opportunity for students who live in and/or attend high school in Rockville to compete for tuition and/or book scholarships by responding to one of several prompts focused on human rights.

The prompts, applications and additional information will be posted beginning Monday, Jan. 27 at www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights. The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 27.

Students may choose their desired medium, e.g., an essay, poem, song, painting, or other medium, through which to respond to the prompts. Submissions will be judged based on creativity, work quality and relevance.

First-, second-, and third-place winners will be announced at a Mayor and Council meeting and will be awarded up to \$2,500 in scholarships.

How Rockville Responds: What to Know About Snow

When winter weather strikes, closure and snow emergency information will be available on the city's website at www.rockvillemd.gov, as well as through Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofrockville) and Twitter (@rockville411), and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

Crews treat and plow roads in the following priority order:

1) Primary roads that consist of major arterial roads, emergency routes, central business districts and primary residential roads near schools.

2) Secondary roads that consist of the remainder of neighborhood streets, alleyways and cul-de-sacs. To check whether an address is within the city limits, find the Address and Residency Check map at www.rockvillemd.gov/maps.

Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of

the property and/or business owner or occupant unless a community association has assumed the responsibility. Snow and ice must be cleared from all paved sidewalks abutting a property as follows:

- Up to 3 inches: Clear within 24 hours.
- 3 to 9 inches: Clear within 48 hours.
- 10 inches or more: Clear within 72 hours.

If residents can do so, they should clear snow from around fire hydrants. To report a sidewalk that has not been cleared within the required timeframe, call 240-314-8330.

Seniors may request assistance to clear snow from their property. To request snow-shoveling assistance or volunteer to shovel snow, call 240-314-8819 or the Senior Center Support Services office at 240-314-8810, or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather. ❄️

Water Utility Bills Pay for Water System Builds

A family of four in Rockville pays nearly \$440 a year for city water service.

But what does a water bill actually pay for?

It costs about \$11.7 million each year to deliver safe, reliable water to Rockville customers, including water treatment, water system operations and maintenance, and administrative services.

Those costs must be entirely covered by the city's water fund, which is one of six enterprise funds in the city budget. Enterprise funds function like a private business, with costs fully recovered through user charges. Water rate increases approved last year were necessary to fund ongoing repair and replacement of aging water pipes and other infrastructure vital to providing water service.

Construction costs will total \$9.7 million in 2020, including water line replacements and \$7.2 million for

rehabilitation of the city water treatment plant's electrical system, which has not been upgraded since the plant on the Potomac River opened in 1958. The rehab project will replace the original substation, repair the roof, upgrade the heating and cooling system, and remodel occupied spaces to meet modern building codes.

Another project planned for 2020 will stabilize a stream bank between the treatment plant and the water intake structure on the Potomac River. Left unattended, the stream bank's erosion could cause an electrical feed to the intake structure to fail, and could eventually damage the pipe that carries the raw water from the intake to the treatment plant.

A planned program to replace all commercial water meters, starting in 2020, aims to increase the accuracy of meter readings. Other

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Police and Public Partner in Security Camera Program

A Rockville City Police Department program allows residents and business owners to voluntarily register their privately-owned video security camera systems, giving police a valuable tool for investigating crime in the community.

Through the RockView security camera registration program, home or business owners use an online form to submit the address of a property where a security camera is in use. This information provides city police a way to quickly identify security

cameras that may have captured criminal activity when a crime is reported nearby.

When police identify a registered camera located near a reported crime, they will contact the camera owner and ask if the owner would examine their secu-

city video for potential leads in the investigation. The owner may accept or deny the request for assistance. If the owner accepts, and their camera captured pertinent information, police will arrange a convenient way to retrieve the information. The program is fully voluntary

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CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

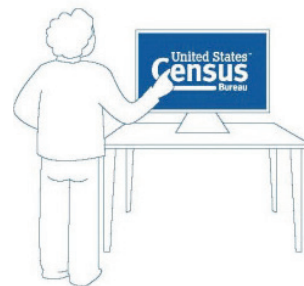
Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.



2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



It's about \$675 billion.

The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.



Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



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Census
Bureau

FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT
2020CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS

United States[®]
Census
2020



Winter is here! And snow!

Get an **Alert Rockville** account
at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

Be even more in-the-know when it
snows, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather.



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): Look back on 2019 with a year in review; get details on the Fiscal Year 2021 budget process, including how you can offer input; find details on free training in how to administer a life-saving drug that reverses the effects of opioid overdoses; and learn some things you might not have known about Rockville with the "Did You Know?" 2019 special.

RECYCLE

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:

Cans



Aluminum and Steel Cans
empty and rinse

Cartons



Food and Beverage Cartons
empty and replace cap

Glass



Bottles and Jars
empty and rinse

Paper



Cereal Boxes, Newspaper, Magazines and Mail, Flattened Cardboard & Paper Tubes

Plastic



Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers
empty and replace cap

NO!



Do not Bag Recyclables (no garbage)



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap



No Tangles, Cords, Hoses or Chains



No Food or Liquid (empty all containers)



No Foam

Recycling? Help the City Tackle ‘Tanglers’: Be Cart Smart

Throwing out plastic bags or medical sharps? Please don’t use the brown recycling cart – put them in the gray trash cart.

“Tanglers,” such as plastic bags or wrap, rope, wire, clothes, cords, hoses, holiday lights, and chains can become tangled in recycling equipment, bringing processing to a grinding halt.

Do not put recyclables in plastic bags and do not put plastic bags in your brown recycling cart. Instead, place bags in the gray trash cart, or find a grocery store that accepts plastic bags for recycling by visiting bit.ly/howtorecyclebags.

howtorecyclebags.

Remember: When in doubt, throw it out.

Help the city keep its recycling and trash collection crews safe. Workers can get stuck by medical sharps and syringes that are not in suitable disposal containers. And damaged lift bars on city recycling or trash carts can cut customers and crew members.

To dispose of medical sharps and syringes, use containers made of heavy-duty plastic that can be closed tightly with a puncture-proof lid. Label the

continued on pg. 7...

Rockville Seeks Environmentalists to Be Recognized During Earth Month

Deadline for Nominations for Environmental Excellence Awards is Feb. 21

The City of Rockville’s Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville’s environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.

- Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
- Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.

Eligible individuals must live, work or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

continued on pg. 7...

City of Rockville Recycling and Trash Collections 2020

| Holiday | 2020 | Collection Changes |
|---|---------------------|--|
| New Year’s Day | Jan. 1 (Wednesday) | Monday and Tuesday collections occur as usual. All other collections occur one day later than usual this week. |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Day | Jan. 20 (Monday) | All collections occur one day later than usual this week. |
| Presidents Day | Feb. 17 (Monday) | All collections occur one day later than usual this week. |
| Memorial Day | May 25 (Monday) | All collections occur one day later than usual this week. |
| Independence Day OBSERVED | July 3 (Friday) | No changes. Collections occur as usual this week. |
| Labor Day | Sept. 7 (Monday) | All collections occur one day later than usual this week. |
| Columbus Day | Oct. 12 (Monday) | No changes. Collections occur as usual this week. |
| Veterans Day | Nov. 11 (Wednesday) | Monday and Tuesday collections occur as usual. All other collections occur one day later than usual this week. |
| Thanksgiving Day | Nov. 26 (Thursday) | Thursday collections occur Friday. No other changes this week. |
| Christmas Day | Dec. 25 (Friday) | No changes. Collections occur as usual this week. |
| Find 2020 holiday collection schedule calendars for each collection day at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash | | |

Keep Christmas With You, Year-round, With Tree Recycling

The city collects holiday trees as part of its recycling collection and takes them to the Montgomery County Recycling Center, where they become mulch.

The mulch is available year-round for free, at the center, at 16105 Frederick Road, next to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station.

Place trees at the curb for pickup on regular recycling and trash collection days after removing all ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged. There is no deadline for curbside collection of trees.

Artificial trees cannot be recycled and should be placed in the gray trash cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year or taken to the transfer station.

For bulk waste disposal information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/bulkwaste.

A 19th-century Lunch Break

Bring your lunch and join Peerless Rockville for a presentation on what life was like in the small town of Rockville in 1850, at noon Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the historic Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square, in Rockville Town Center.

“Lunch & Learn: Rockville 1850” will look at a time when slavery was the practice of the day and the community experienced the rising tensions of a nation drifting towards the Civil War. Afterwards, check out the exhibit “Forging Freedom: Endurance, Escape, and Rockville’s Underground Railroad.” Seating is limited. Contact Peerless Rockville to RSVP at 301-762-0096 or info@peerlessrockville.org.

January Closures

continued from pg. 1...

Theatre box office will be open only from 2-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and is closed Jan. 1 and 20. The box office will resume regular hours Tuesday, Jan. 14. Tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

- Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers are open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1; and open regular hours Jan. 2 and Jan. 20.
- The Rockville Senior Center will be open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 31, and closed Jan. 1 and 20.
- The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Jan. 1 and open regular hours Jan. 20. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for lap and program schedules.

Parking fees at city-owned meters will be suspended on Jan. 1 and 20.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov. ❄️



50 REASONS TO SIGN UP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS ... The world celebrates the 50th anniversary of Earth Day this year, on Wednesday, April 22. Rockville is marking Earth Day every day with events throughout the year, beginning with a First Day Hike at Croydon Creek Nature Center on New Year’s Day (see the calendar on page 7). For environmental news and tips, and details on Earth Day events throughout the year, sign up for the city’s Environment and Sustainability quarterly email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters.

MUNICIPAL BROADCAST NETWORK

COMCAST
997



RCN
1057



Rockville 11 is in HD

The Municipal Broadcast Network is now in HD. Learn more at www.connectmontgomery.com. Watch online at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Certified Instructor? The Swim and Fitness Center is Hiring!

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is hiring part-time fitness instructors to teach classes this winter.

Instructors are sought for yoga, water fitness and Bootcamp. Ideal candidates will have availability either early mornings, weekday evenings or Saturday mornings. Instructors work about three to four hours a week.

An additional perk offered to Rockville Swim and Fitness Center employees is free use of the facility for the employee and a guest. The center also offers staff training in CPR, first aid, lifeguarding and, on occasion, specialty courses at a significant discount.

Qualified candidates should go to www.rockvillemd.gov/careers to apply as a fitness instructor at the swim center. Certification is required.

Find out about Rockville Swim and Fitness Center pool schedules, seasonal hours, personal training opportunities and more at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

Kids Can Learn to Swim — and Stay Active — at the Swim Center

Looking for a weekday afterschool activity for your kid? How about learning a life skill to get children ready for summer fun in the pool? The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center offers dozens of learn-to-swim classes to keep your children, ages 4-11, active during the winter months.

Classes are available between 3:35-5:15 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 4:35-6:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, starting the week of Jan. 6. While the center also offers weekend classes, weekday classes tend to be smaller, allowing for more individualized instruction.

Recreational swimming is available daily. Daily admission costs \$6 per child and \$7 per adult. To see the pool schedule and find classes, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter, or call 240-314-8750 or email swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov for more information.

Drop by the center at 355 Martins Lane for a tour and help registering.

Feedback on Town Center

continued from pg. 3...

- improving signage to support the branding/messaging effort.
- Support for sending a letter to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority indicating the importance of improvements to the Rockville station. (See the article on page 8.)

To watch the work session, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter, and select the TV icon next to the Nov. 25 agenda item. ✚



Look Out For the 2020 Summer Camp Guide Programs for Kids and Teens!

Publishes Monday, Jan. 13 in print and online at www.rockvillemd.gov/life

Available at city facilities and Rockville libraries.
Registration begins Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Wellness Programs for a Healthier You, at Rockville Senior Center

At the Rockville Senior Center this month, find out about pain management and reducing your stress and, for Spanish speakers, how to eat healthily.

Register at the senior center's information desk by calling 240-314-8800, or online with the course number at www.rockvillemd.gov/ registration.

Pain Connection

From 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, anesthesiologist Dermot Maher will highlight treatment options for acute and chronic pain. Learn the latest in innovative interventional procedures that can reduce and, in some cases, eliminate pain for good. Register for this free course with #11588.

Stress Reduction/Meditation

Find out about the tools to focus, relax, and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for both meditation and discussion. Betty Figliore has taught meditation, guid-

ed imagery and stress reduction classes for over 30 years.

The class will be held from 1-2 p.m. on Mondays from Jan. 6-March 23. Register with course #11523; the cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for nonmembers.

Sesiones de Comer Saludable en Español (Healthy Eating Sessions in Spanish)

This free four-week workshop, held from 1-2 p.m. on Fridays from Jan. 17-Feb. 7, will cover topics such as nutrition and lifestyle changes for a healthy diet. Register with course #11597.

Ongoing Skin Clinic

Held the second Friday of each month. Appointments required. Medicare/insurance will be billed. Call 1-877-345-5300 for appointment, see Betty in the health room, or call her at 240-314-8803.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter for more info. The senior center is located at 1150 Carnation Drive. ✚



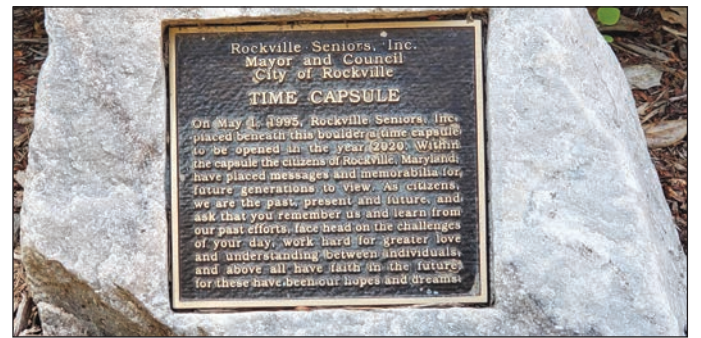
A 'Raisin in the Sun' Comes to the F. Scott This Month

Rockville Little Theatre will present the racially relevant classic, "A Raisin in the Sun," this month at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Set in Chicago's South Side in the 1950s, the play depicts the dreams and ambitions of the Younger family as they await and receive a life-altering insurance check.

Faced with daily tensions, prejudices and a harsh reality, the family struggles to maintain dignity amid the chaos. Written by Lorraine Hansberry and directed by Kevin Sockwell.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Jan. 24, 25, 31 and Feb. 1; 2 p.m. Jan. 26 and Feb. 2. Tickets cost \$22; \$20 for seniors (62 and older) and students. ✚



A Quarter Century On, Senior Center Searches for Time Capsule Item Donors

This May, 25 years from when it was buried, a time capsule will be unearthed at the Rockville Senior Center.

When it was buried, memorabilia and messages were included from the community with an invitation to those who contributed, or their designees, to pick them up once the capsule again saw the light of day.

A quarter of a century on, staff from the senior center are looking for the

recipients of what's inside the capsule.

Envelopes handed out at the time were used to donate items. Receipts that were issued were to be redeemed for the items when the capsule was dug up.

If you have a receipt ticket or believe a loved one may have put something in the capsule for you to retrieve, please contact the Rockville Senior Center at seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8800. ✚

Make Art About Rec and Parks for Our Student Art Competition

Do you love Rockville Recreation and Parks? Make some art expressing that love, enter the city's art competition for students in grades K-12, and you may see that artwork featured in future City of Rockville promotional materials!

The deadline to enter is Friday, Feb. 14. Notification for winning entries will be Friday, Feb. 21. Two winners will be selected in each of the following categories:

- Cultural arts: ballet, the-

ater, visual arts, music, etc.

- Parks and nature.
- Recreation: sports, swimming, camps, etc.

Winners will receive a credit to their Rockville recreation account to use for registration of future activities.

Winners may be required to submit their original work.

For more information, email elisdeal@rockvillemd.gov. For an entry form and details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/studentartcontest. ✚



WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH ... Of course, we're celebrating 2020 — Happy New Year, Rockville! January is, among other recognitions, National Hot Tea Month. It's also a month dedicated to hot tea, blood donor awareness, braille literacy, mentoring, soup and hobbies, and National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

January CALENDAR

CC Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
GM Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
FSF F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

LP Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.
CH Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
SR Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.

FACILITIES LEGEND:

SFC Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
TF Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
TC Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



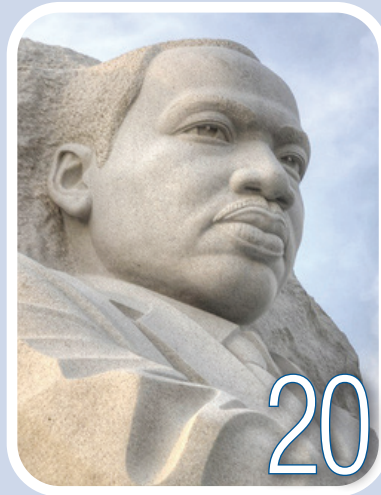
1

ROCKVILLE GOES PURPLE

Campaign for Opioid Abuse Awareness

FREE
Naloxone
Training

13



20



26

1 NEW YEAR'S DAY. City Hall and city facilities will be closed. There will be no recycling and trash collection. *See article on page 1.*

1 FIRST DAY HIKE. Start the new year off on the right foot. Join a naturalist for a mile-long casual nature walk on the Heritage Trail. Bring water, appropriate footwear and dress for the weather. Ages 2 and older. Register for course #12219. \$6. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

6,20 MEMORY CAFÉ. This Alzheimer's Association's group offers a fun and relaxed way for people living with early-stage memory loss to connect with one another through social events that promote interaction and companionship. Bring a bag lunch and meet people. Contact Sheila Griffith at 240-428-1342 or sagriffith@alz.org before attending. Free. Noon-1 p.m. **SR**

7,21 SELF ADVOCACY. Review self-advocacy skills with the goal of feeling more independent and in charge as you find solutions to challenges. Register for course #11599. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

7,22 CENSUS AMBASSADOR TRAINING. Orientation and Census training through the Office of Community Partnerships and the U.S. Census Bureau to become an ambassador to help ensure everyone is counted in the 2020 Census. Visit montgomerycountymd.gov/census/ambassadors.html to register. 7-8:30 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library (first-floor meeting room), 21 Maryland Ave.

9,23 GRATITUDE. A psychoeducational group and discussion on conducting a life with a focus on gratitude. 1-2:30 p.m. Register for course #11600. Free. **SR**

12 OUTDOOR SCIENCE CLUB: CHILLY HABITATS. Young scientists investigate science topics through hands-on activities and time spent exploring the forest preserve. Ages 6-8. Register for course #12215. \$10. 1:30-3 p.m. **CC**

13 FREE NARCAN TRAINING. The City of Rockville, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Montgomery County Collaboration Council will conduct free training on how to identify an opioid overdose and use the rescue drug Narcan (also known as Naloxone) to reverse its effects. Participants must be 18 or older. To register, call 240-777-1836 or email OverdoseResponseProgram@montgomerycountymd.gov. *See article on page 1.* 7-8:30 p.m. **TC**

14 TINY TOT CELEBRATION: HAPPY NEW YEAR/WINTER WONDERLAND. Children ages 2-6 celebrate with themed crafts, snacks, sensory activities and more. Hang out with friends, dance, play and enjoy child-sized gym equipment during this station-based program. All children must register. Adult participation is required. Space is limited. Preregistration required. Register for course #12047. \$15. 10-11:30 a.m. **TF**

14 INSURANCE 101 AND SCAMS. Join Patricia Dorn, from the Maryland Insurance Administration, as she covers renters, homeowners, auto, medical supplement and life insurance fraud. Learn your rights and receive easy-to-read resource guides. Register for course #11530. Free. 10:30 a.m.-noon. **SR**

14,28 SENIOR COPING SKILLS. Learn the best practices and most-used coping skills for seniors, with an opportunity for discussion and sharing what works. Register for course #11601. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY. City Hall and city facilities will be closed. Recycling and trash collection will be a day later throughout the week. *See article on page 1.*

20,27 ADVENTURE DAY. An adventure on days off school, featuring an offsite field trip and games and activities at the community center. An email with information about the trip will be sent to participants before the program. Register for course #12025 (Jan. 20) or #12026 (Jan. 27). \$35. 9-3 p.m. **TF**

20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATION. *See article on page 1.* Free. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

22 LUNCH & LEARN: ROCKVILLE 1850. *See article on page 5.* Noon. Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square.

24 MARYLAND STATE POLICE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE. *See ad on page 2.* 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis.

24 PICKLEBALL SOCIAL. Grab a paddle for an evening of pickleball. Wear your favorite football team's attire. Light refreshments. Register for course #12240. \$14. 6:30-9 p.m. **TF**

24,25 ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS "A RAISIN IN THE SUN." *See article on page 6.* Tickets: \$22; \$20 for seniors 62 and older and students. Group pricing and special pricing for educators and students with valid ID. 8-10 p.m. Jan. 24, 25, 31 and Feb. 1; 2-4 p.m. Jan. 26 and Feb. 2 **FSF**

26 RECREATION AND PARKS SUMMER CAMP BOOTH at the Montgomery County Camp and Summer Fun Expo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Hilton Hotel Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike.

26 ANNUAL GLENVIEW MANSION WEDDING EXPO. Meet all your vendors to plan your special day. All are welcome. Tickets: \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door. *See ad on page 6.* 1-4 p.m. **GM**

27 GROWING UP WILD: TEACHER WORKSHOP. A fun-filled, practical workshop for early-childhood educators packed with hands-on, experiential nature activities for the classroom. Each participant will receive a "Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature With Young Children" curriculum guide correlated with National Association for the Education of Young Children standards. Advance registration required. Register for course #12200. \$15 R/\$17 NR. Cost covers program supplies. 9 a.m.-noon. **CC**

30 NATURE TOTS: WINTER WONDERS. Discover the wonders of nature with your child, age 2-5, as a naturalist helps you through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Register for course #12207. \$10. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

30 ALEXA ... PLEASE. Paul Burden, founder of Our Voice, demonstrates how to get the most out of the Amazon Echo, sometimes called Alexa. Register for course #11531. Free. 10:30 a.m.-noon. **SR**

30 UNDERSTANDING GRIEF. This workshop will address the psychosocial aspect of grieving, with coping skills, tasks for grieving and other helpful resources. Register for course #11603. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

30 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS FORUM. Planning for the 2023 election. *See article on page 4.* 7-9 p.m. **CH**

Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season.
 Sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.
 Enter the course number listed on the calendar entry to see more details and register.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

Recycling? No to Tangles

continued from pg. 5...

container and place it in the middle of your household trash in the gray trash cart – or find a disposal program. Find more community guidelines about safe disposal at bit.ly/howtorecyclesharps.

Got a city recycling or trash cart that's falling apart? Call 240-314-8568. We'll replace it for you.

Learn more about the city's recycling and trash collection at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash. ❖

Environmental Awards

continued from pg. 5...

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which reviews the materials and recommends awards to the Mayor and Council.

For more information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov, or call 240-314-8870. ❖

Security Camera Program

continued from pg. 4...

and community members can opt-out at any time.

Information provided to the RCPD about camera systems will be for official police use only. Owners' personal information will not be distributed, except as required by law or court order. Information submitted may be disclosed if requested per the Maryland Public Information Act.

For more information, and to register a camera, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/securitycamera. ❖

Water Utility Bills

continued from pg. 4...

projects include continued investment in improvements to the water distribution system to increase the flow of water to fire hydrants, improve water quality, reduce water main breaks, and replace aging pipes and other infrastructure. The city has invested more than \$26 million since 2008 in such improvements and will continue to invest \$3 million to \$4 million each year.

Learn more about Rockville's drinking water at rockvillereports.com/city-water-quality-receives-high-marks-for-safety-4. ❖

City Honors Employees for Their Service

The City of Rockville held its annual employee awards ceremony, Thursday, Dec. 12 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Thirteen employees were honored with awards for more than three decades of service, who between them have a combined 430 years of experience working for the city.

Honored for 45 years of service: Fran Jablonski, with the Rockville Senior Center. Honored for 40 years: Maj. Michael England, with the Rockville City Police Department, and Betty Wisda, with Recreation and Parks.

Thirty-year employees are: Lisa Cooper, Janet Hare and Angela Joyner, with Information Technology; Lt. Brian Paul and Maj. Eric Over, with the RCPD; Michael Shipp, with Public Works; and Christine Henry, Janet Opar and Rob Orndorff, with Recreation and Parks.

In all during the ceremony, 85 city employees were recognized for five to 45 years of service, and more than 40 YouRock awards, recognizing the good work of employees, were presented.



Dubon Receives Bill Mason Recognition

Alex Dubon, a tree climber and acting crew supervisor with the Department of Recreation and Parks, was honored with the Bill Mason Award for Outstanding Performance on Thursday, Dec. 12, during the city's annual awards ceremony.

In receiving the award, Dubon, who has worked for the city for more than two decades, was described as "honest, straightforward and an asset to the city."

In addition, "Alex answers the call, day or night in all kinds of weather, in response to storm damage, clearing tree obstructions from roads, sidewalks and paths, so that city operations can continue."

The award is named for the late William "Bill" Mason, who served as an example of outstanding performance and dedicated service to the City of Rockville. The award recognizes a hardworking employee who has demonstrated exceptionally high-quality service, straightforwardness, willingness to go the extra mile and exceptional attendance.

Rockville to Celebrate Lunar New Year on Feb. 1

Performances and Displays to Mark the Year of the Rat

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, crafts and cultural displays at the city's Lunar New Year celebration.

The annual celebration will be held from 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at Rockville High School. Multicultural performances will be from 1:30-2:45 p.m. There will be interactive displays and Asian snacks. The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force.

Rockville High School, at 2100 Baltimore Road, is accessible via Ride On Bus 45.

In its 12th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an

educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The celebration will mark the year 4718, the Year of the Rat on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents was born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.

Are you a community group or nonprofit interested in providing a Lunar New Year-themed activity or craft? Contact Amanda Knox at aknox@rockvillemd.gov for more information.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear.

Rockville Goes Purple

continued from pg. 1...

dose. Rockville City Police Department officers have been trained in the use of Narcan and each officer has been issued at least two doses.

Over the coming year, Rockville Goes Purple will focus on youth in addiction awareness and prevention activities, as well as hold other events to spur community involvement in combating the opioid crisis.

Rockville began its awareness campaign after joining other state and local jurisdictions, in 2018, in legal action against drug manufacturers and distributors for their role in the nationwide opioid crisis.

In Fiscal Year 2019, Maryland spent \$672 million to combat the opioid crisis. Of that, the state awarded \$21 million in grants to local jurisdictions, including nearly \$559,000 to Montgomery County for education and awareness campaigns, outreach and intervention programs, training in how to respond to an overdose, and

law enforcement efforts to address the crisis.

Rockville is not immune to the ongoing crisis of opioid overdoses. From January to October 2019, there have been 49 overdose deaths and 320 non-fatal overdoses in the county.

"Rockville Goes Purple" formally kicked off in March 2019 with a program featuring Chris Herren, a former professional basketball player and recovery advocate who founded The Herren Project, a nonprofit serving individuals and families impacted by substance use disorder and the disease of addiction.

Also, in 2019, Rockville held an education forum and hosted expert panels; conducted trainings in Narcan and distributed Narcan kits; marked Overdose Awareness Day in August; welcomed the annual Race 4 Recovery 5K; and lit Town Center purple to mark National Recovery Month in September.

For more information about the Rockville Goes Purple campaign, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillegoespurple.

Mayor and Council Write in Support of Rockville Station Improvements

The Mayor and Council have sent a letter to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority expressing their strong support for a study of the Rockville Metro Station, following notification in summer that money for the study was available through WMATA's Project Development Program.

Through the program, jurisdictions can request that WMATA undertake planning studies and other transportation and real estate analysis, such as planning rail and bus stations, real estate and joint development, and other transportation infrastructure.

Rockville has been allocated \$350,000 for its study from a pot of \$3 million divided equally between Maryland, D.C. and Virginia.



The Mayor and Council's letter expresses appreciation for the funding and requests WMATA and Rockville "be partners in developing and implementing plans to better serve WMATA's customers and contribute to Rockville's growing vitality."

"[T]his 35-year-old station will greatly benefit from long-term improvements to address current and future goals related to our downtown, adjacent neighborhoods, transit services and economic development," the Mayor and Council's letter states.



Test Your Green Thumb with a Rockville Garden Plot

Yard Too Small for That Spring Harvest You've Always Dreamed Of?

The City of Rockville has 159 garden plots, approximately 25-by-25 feet, available for rent at Woottons Mill Park for growing food and other plants.

The cost is \$80 per plot for nonresidents; Rockville residents pay \$62.50 per plot. Registration for the garden plot program opens Monday, Jan. 13 The season

runs April 1-Nov. 15.

The city provides water spigots and mulch; gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.

Registration forms can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots. Call the Rockville Civic Center's main office at 240-314-8660, for more information.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11

www.youtube.com/cityofrockville



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdispirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.



Get Into It

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Deputy City Manager: Jennifer Kimball
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
Public Information Specialists: Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam

Web and Digital Manager: Tatum B. Walker
Graphics and Printing: Eric Ferrell, Erin Fincher, Lori Russler
Rockville 11: Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Kathy Dantzler, Fran Panzo

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BACK IN THE DAY ... George Lucas was selected as the City of Rockville's artist in residence in winter 1993. Under the program, the self-taught Lucas could use studio space in Glenview Mansion in exchange for teaching art courses and welcoming people to observe his process during studio open hours.